

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

CONFERENCE *connection*

Alabama • Georgia • Mississippi
South Carolina • Tennessee • NW Florida

SOUTHEAST UCC Conference



March 15, 2018

From the Conference Minister

Dear Friends,

As Spring arrives with Easter's promise of new life, let us look at our own lives with hope and renewal. It is easy to get caught up in the worries of the day, the pressures all around us, and the myriads of things that need to be done. And yet, God calls us to see what is bursting forth in new ways in our lives and in our world. Let us discover and celebrate the hope that this season brings.

We have the opportunity this year to look with hope at the future of the Southeast Conference. I invite you to join in one of the four regional meetings and attend Annual Meeting to be part of the conversation and discernment. This is a hopeful action by the people of God to continue vital and essential ministries and to strengthen our covenant and connection with each other.



Let us walk boldly in the promises of Easter.

Blessings,
Marie

Year of Discernment Regional Meetings, Resources

During this year of 2018, we will begin the interim work for the Southeast Conference in earnest. **The Board of Directors approved that this year will be a Year of Discernment for the entire conference.** This is our way to seek God's Spirit into the process as we ask hard questions about the direction of the conference. ([Learn more on our website.](#))

We have two dates and places for regional meetings.

- Saturday, April 7, 2018 at Howard Congregational Church, Nashville, TN; 2:00-3:30 pm.
- Saturday, April 14, 2018 at United Church of Huntsville, Huntsville, AL; 2:00-3:30 pm.

There will be two more regional meetings, one in the Atlanta area and one in Charleston, SC. We are still working on finalizing dates.

The two books we are reading:

- *Institutional Intelligence: How to Build an Effective Organization* by Gordon T. Smith
- *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* by Tod Bolsinger.

If you have any questions, please contact Marie.

Yearbook Reporting: It's Not Too Late!

Although the online portal to the UCC Data Hub now closed, it's not too late to have your church's data updated with the denomination. Please call Heather Fosburgh Bardole, our Associate Conference Minister, at 404-719-6572 to provide your information.

Authorized Ministers Information Review

The Authorized Ministers Annual review has started. If you have not already completed yours, please do so soon. Thank you to everyone who has already filled out and returned the review. There are two ways you can return your Annual Review:

1. The preferred way is to [complete the online form](#).
2. Alternatively, you can [download a PDF](#) of the form, print and mail it to the Conference Office: PO Box 1950, Decatur, Georgia 30031.

If you have any questions, please contact the Conference Registrar at registrar@secucc.org or 404-719-572. We will be mailing out hard copies to those who have not completed the review next week. Please submit your completed Annual Review **by March 20, 2018**. We will be following up if you do not respond.

Message from Our Generosity Coordinator

Gifts to Basic Support of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) benefit the full range of the United Church of Christ mission across the country and around the globe.

- Because of our belief in a continuing testament, we are attentive to God's creative movement in the world.
- We prepare leaders who are open to and prepared for ministry in the present and future church.
- We train leaders who grow spiritually, who build up the church, and put their faith into action.
- We arrive early on issues of social justice, as evidenced by courageous "firsts" for racial justice, equality and inclusion.
- We change lives through our global partnerships, missionaries and advocacy.



Thank you for your partnership. Together we are changing lives.

Please allow me to help you to help your church. Invite me to speak to your church regarding ways to contribute to this effort. Should you have questions, contact me at cmoss@secucc.org.

Blessings, as we journey..together...
Carrole Moss

Join Saturday's Ecclesiastical Councils Virtually

The Commission on Ministry invites the Conference to the Ecclesiastical Councils for James Bowman Harris and Cindy Barto at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday March 17, 2018 at [Virginia Highland Church, 743 Virginia Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30306.](#)

The Ecclesiastical Council is the final step in the process towards Authorized Ministry within the United Church of Christ. It is a time for the Conference to hear about both candidates' journey toward ministry and ask them questions before deciding if they should be ordained in the United Church of Christ.

If you are unable to attend in person, you can join online.

- Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:
<https://zoom.us/j/4090250821>
- Telephone: Dial +1 669 900 6833 or +1 646 558 8656
- Meeting ID: 409 025 0821

All members of the Conference are welcomed and encouraged to attend and participate in this important work of the church.



Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2018. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers. [Click here to download the entire 2018 prayer list.](#)

Week of March 19

- First Congregational UCC; Atlanta, Georgia
- Common Global Ministries and all mission personnel
- Thomas Baird
- Robert Foreman
- Cheryl Slusser

Week of March 26

- New Hope Congregational Christian; Clio, Alabama
- Southeast Conference Staff
- William Derstine
- Aubra Love
- Tom Mozley
- Alan Ballentine

Prayer Requests

- Please keep **Cindy Barto** and **James Bowman Harris** in your prayers as they have their Ecclesiastical Councils on Saturday, March 17.

Churches in Transition

First Congregational, Birmingham, AL; Pilgrimage, Marietta, GA; Sandy Creek, Lafayette, AL

News from our Local Congregations



BIKE BLESSING

SUNDAY

MAY 6TH, 2018

1:00PM



PHOENIX CHRISTIAN CHURCH, UCC
400 EXCHANGE RD.
WILDERSVILLE, TN 38388
WWW.PHOENIXCHRISTIANCHURCH.COM

Find us on Facebook:
@phoenixchristianchurch

News from the Wider Church



March for Our Lives

A number of SEC congregations will be participating in the March for Our Lives event on Saturday, March 24. These include rallies in Atlanta, Nashville, Chattanooga, Cookeville, Knoxville, Charleston, and more! Contact your local congregation, or [look for a March near you](#) to find out how to participate!

Training and Learning Opportunities

History and Polity Course Offering through Vanderbilt (100% Online)

This course will explore and examine the history, polity, theologies and practices of the United Church of Christ (UCC) and its predecessor denominations. Participation in this course will equip students to be faithful, critical, and supportive interpreters of the UCC through an understanding of both the roots of the denomination and current issues, conversations and trends. This course will also prepare students for consideration as authorized leaders in UCC congregations and ministries.

Class participants will be able to tell the story of the UCC accurately and to describe the prevailing spirit and commitments of the church. They will possess an understanding of the way the denomination's theological trajectories have developed and continue to unfold. Students will also gain practice in various ministerial skills and be prepared for full participation in the life of denomination. They will be prepared to exhibit the spirit of radical ecumenism and zeal for mission that is characteristic of the UCC.

This course is designed to include the [Essential Elements in a United Church of Christ Polity Course](#).

- Cost: \$300 for non-VU affiliated students, \$30 for VU alumni
- Dates: May 7-June 29th

For information on enrolling, contact Lillian Lammers (lillian.lammers@vanderbilt.edu)

A Scholarshipped Continuing Educational Event on Professional Ethics for Authorized Ministers

- Are you a member of a Committee or Commission on Ministry (COM)?
- Are you concerned about professional ethics among authorized ministers?
- Would a more comprehensive approach to professional ethics for clergy enable you to respond to the unique issues which you face as a member of a COM?

PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc., has received a special donation to cover the costs for up to twelve COM members from any UCC Conference. If you are a COM member, you are invited to participate in the course, Professional Boundaries and Ministerial Self-Care.

This six- week asynchronous online course explores ethics and their application for professional pastoral ministers. In addition to the topic of boundaries that define the relationships between pastoral ministers and congregants, the course also explores issues like confidentiality in ministry, ethics related to competency in pastoral ministry, power differential in ministerial settings, and the use of social media.

Through the coursework, participants will come to a greater understanding of the need for an ethical paradigm for ministerial engagement. In addition, the course explores the professional minister's right to privacy. Claiming one's appropriate right to privacy helps the professional maintain appropriate boundaries. Knowing how to discern where our public self begins and our private self end serves as an essential aspect of self-care.

Required readings for the course include:

- Lebacqz, Karen, and Drickill, Joseph. (2000). Ethics and Spiritual Care: A Guide for Pastors, Chaplains, and Spiritual Directors. Abingdon Press. ISBN: 978-0-678-07156-2
- Gula, Richard M. (2010). Just Ministry: Professional Ethics for Pastoral Ministers. Paulist Press. ISBN: 978-0-80910463104

Participants who complete all required coursework will earn four continuing education units.

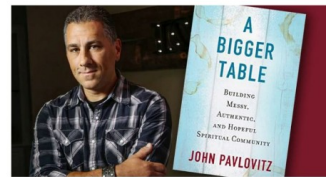
- DATES: Wednesday, May 9 to Tuesday, June 19, 2018 (Registration deadline: Friday, May 4)
- Course Facilitator: The Rev. Lou Kavar, Ph.D., President of the Board of Directors, PATHWAYS, and a member of the faculty in the School of Psychology at Capella University. Lou has facilitated courses in professional ethics for health and mental health professionals as well as clergy. He has been teaching online courses for 18 years.

For more information, contact: pathways.ucc@gmail.com
To learn more about PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc, visit:
www.pathways-ucc.org

John Pavlovitz Coming to

North Georgia

John Pavlovitz is huge on the UCC guest speaking circuit right now and he is coming soon to North Georgia. An 18-year veteran in the trenches of local church ministry, John's mission is to nurture better, more productive conversation about faith, and to help the Church become a more compassionate, loving environment for all people. John will speak at Cherry Log Christian Church: Disciples of Christ on Friday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m.



COMING SOON to North Georgia!!

PASTOR JOHN PAVLOVITZ

FRI, MARCH 23 2018 7 PM

**CHERRY LOG CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

1149 CHERRY LOG ST. CHERRY LOG, GA 30522
(NURSERY AND CHILD CARE PROVIDED)



**Pastor, Author,
Speaker, Blogger,
Husband, and
Father**

18-year veteran in the trenches of local church ministry, John's mission is to nurture better, more productive conversation about faith, and to help the Church become a more compassionate, loving environment for all people.

**A Bigger Table is
John's newly
released best
selling book!**

JOHNPAVLOVITZ.COM

Stuff That Needs To Be Said

[Check out John's website!](#)

Copyright © 2018 Southeast Conference, UCC, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

